

SENATE RESOLUTION 8

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mrs. Berlie Harber McGarrity on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Berlie Harber McGarrity celebrated her 100th birthday on January 27, 2007, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the eighth child of Jake and A. Tennie Harber, Berlie was born and raised at her family's homeplace on the Eaton Crockett Mills Road in Crockett County; she and her family lived what she calls the "good, old country life," raising all of their food themselves, sewing their own clothes, and carrying out all of the duties of keeping a home and farm without the aid of electricity; and

WHEREAS, even as a youth, Berlie was an industrious soul who felt the need to complete her education, driving a horse and buggy with her sister in the cold winters to attend Crockett Mills High School and earn her diploma; and

WHEREAS, Berlie cherished her family and homeplace to such a degree that she did not marry until the age of 25, when she was joined in the blessed union with Bill McGarrity on October 29, 1932; their marriage produced three children, Willie Esther (Billie) McGarrity, Tennie Kay McGarrity, and Arthur Douglas McGarrity; six grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, even as an active young wife and mother, Mrs. McGarrity found the time to work outside of her home, often walking to her jobs in Halls, Tennessee, to help support her

husband and family; she kept her last job in the retail sector for 25 years before retiring at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McGarrity's faith has been an essential part of her life since her childhood, when she played the piano and sang in the choir at Bethesda Cumberland Presbyterian Church; later, she and her husband and children joined the Methodist Church in Halls; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. McGarrity and her husband Bill remained loyally devoted to each other until his death in 1988; the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1982; and

WHEREAS, as she enters her second century, Mrs. McGarrity still stands by her own homespun, practical advice: "Live a good, clean life and stay away from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco"; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mrs. Berlie Harber McGarrity on the celebration of her 100th birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.